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HEADQUARTERS,  
OCCUPATION FORCES,  
TRUK AND CENTRAL CAROLINE ISLANDS.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Information relative to the date of \* Perpetuation of testimony  
construction of fortifications and \* of Ater Era, chief, Fefan  
military installations in the Truk \* Island.  
Atoll prior to December 1941, use \*  
of forced native labor without \*  
adequate remuneration, and denial \*  
of equal rights to Americans on Yap. \*  
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Taken at: Moen Island, Truk and Central Carolines.  
Date : February 25, 1946.  
In the presence of: Thomas Santamaria, first lieutenant, U. S.  
Marine Corps Reserve.  
Reporter: George C. Lishka, corporal, U. S. Marine  
Corps Reserve.  
Interpreter: Artie Moses, chief of Uman Island.  
Questions by: Thomas Santamaria, first lieutenant, U. S.  
Marine Corps Reserve.

Q. State your name, permanent home address, and occupation.  
A. Ater Era, chief, Fefan Island.  
Q. How long have you lived on the island of Fefan?  
A. Forty-nine years.  
Q. How long have you been living in the Truk Atoll?  
A. Forty-nine years.  
Q. Have you any knowledge of fortifications or military installations  
constructed by the Japanese on Fefan Island prior to December  
1941?  
A. Yes.

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Q. State what you know of your own knowledge about the installations.

A. On the island of Fefan during the year of 1940 the Japanese constructed a road from the dock on the east side of the island to the top of the mountain. Emplacements for two guns were built and guns appearing to have bores of about five inches were installed. A searchlight was placed there on a platform and a generator placed inside a small building. Three large buildings were erected, one used as a barracks and two for warehouses.

Q. On the north side of Fefan there is a cave housed flat trajectory gun, a machine gun, and two twenty-five millimeter twin mounts, when were these installed?

A. After December 1941.

Q. On the south tip they have a cave housed flat trajectory gun and a machine gun, when were these installed?

A. After December 1941.

Q. All over the island I notice numerous buildings, a hospital, barracks, warehouses, and guns, when were these installed?

A. After December 1941.

Q. Do you know of any military installations and fortifications placed on other islands thereabouts?

A. Yes, on the island of Faleu.

Q. What was built on this island?

A. After December 1941 they dug caves, built buildings, and installed guns there.

Q. When was the seaplane base built on the island of Tsis?

A. During 1943.

Q. When was the airfield built on Param?

A. Construction was started in 1943.

Q. Do you know the names of any of the persons in command or in charge while the building was going on prior to December 1941?

A. Iwai, Japanese Navy, was one of the officers in charge during that period.

Q. Do you know of any natives who were forced to work by the Japanese and not adequately remunerated?

A. Yes.

Q. State what you know of your own knowledge about these cases.

A. From January 1942 until cessation of hostilities we were forced to furnish four hundred men and three hundred women to the Japanese for

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employment purposes. The Pay received was eighty sen for the men, sixty sen for women per day. During 1942 and 1943 we were forced to work one day each month without pay. For the year 1944 we were forced to work two months without pay and during 1945 three months without pay. During 1944 and 1945 the men received one yen and twenty sen and the women eighty sen per day.

Q. What method did the Japanese use in forcing you to supply labor?  
A. We were told to furnish certain amounts.

Q. Supposing you hadn't furnished this labor what would have happened?  
A. We had to furnish a list and if the person did not make an appearance or didn't report for work they were whipped. Because we would be punished if we didn't supply the request for personnel by the Japanese forces we never disobeyed orders.

Q. Do you know the name of anyone in command forcing you to furnish labor?  
A. The name of the military police master during 1942 and 1943 on Fefan was Sato, and during 1944 and 1945 the name of the police master was AMI. My people reporting for work had to report to these officials.

Q. Do you know of any circumstances of denial of equal rights to Americans on Yap?  
A. No.

Q. Is there anything you would like to add to the testimony already given?  
A. No.

/s/ Ater Era  
Ater Era,  
chief,  
Fefan Island.

Moen Island

Truk and Central Carolines

I, Ater Era, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Ater Era  
Ater Era

before

Subscribed and sworn to/me this 4th day of March 1946.

/s/ T. Santamaria  
T. SANTAMARIA,  
1st Lt., USMCR.,  
Legal Officer.

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Moen Island

Truk and Central Carolines

I, Artie Moses, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath state that I truly translated the questions asked and answers given and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing 3 pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

/s/ Artie Moses  
Artie Moses

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of March 1946.

/s/ T. Santamaria  
T. SANTAMARIA,  
1st Lt., USMCR.,  
Legal Officer.

I, T. Santamaria, first lieutenant, 032989, U.S.M.C.R., certify that on February 25, 1946, personally appeared before me Ater Era, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Ater Era read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Headquarters Military Government,  
Truk and Central Caroline  
Islands

/s/ T. Santamaria  
T. SANTAMARIA,  
1st Lt., USMCR.,  
Island Command, Truk.

Date: March 4, 1946

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Doc 6015

場所 トラウ島及中央カリ、諸島中ノモト島

日時 一九四六年(昭和二十一年)二月廿五日

問 姓名、原籍地、職業、

答 トラウ島ノ酋長 アター・エウ・テス

問 トラウ島ニ何年居住シテ居るか

答 四十五年間

問 トラウ環礁ニ何年居住シテ来り

答 四十九年間

問 一九四二年(昭和十七年)十二月以前ニトラウ島  
ニ日本軍が建設シテ居る軍事事施設、何ト  
ニシテ何カ知るか

答 然り

問 軍事施設ニシテ何方、知るかトテ来り

答 一九四二年(昭和十七年)中トラウ島ニ日本軍  
ハ島東側ニ在ルトラウ山頂上迄道路  
ヲ建設シ、二門ノ大砲、砲床カシテ、口徑  
五吋半ノ大砲カ据エ付シ。砲口ハ據

Ex 899

No. 1

No. 2.

Doc 6016

照燈ヲ据エ付ケルナキ建物内部ニ發電機ヲ据  
エ付ケル。  
本ノ建物ハ三軒建テ。一軒ハ兵舎、二軒ハ倉  
庫ニサシ。

問. 一九四二年(昭和十七年)以前ニ其建物建  
設中。ソノ指揮主ニ担任シ居タル者ノ中  
誰ガ名ヲ知ツラキ。

答. 日本海軍、岩井トシノブノ其建築期間  
中、担任将校中、一人ニケル。

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